

Remarks

Applicants have amended the title to reflect the subject matter of the pending claims. Applicants have canceled claims 1 to 88, and Applicants have added claims 89 to 116, leaving claims 89 to 116 pending in the present application. Applicants canceled claims 1 to 62, 65, 66, and 82 to 88 in view of the election of claims designated "Group 60" by the Examiner. The cancellation of these claims necessitated the deletion of Wenfeng Xu, Karen Madden, and David P. Yee as named inventors.

The new claims are focused upon particular aspects of the invention designated Group 60 in light of commercial considerations. Applicants reserve the right to pursue claims directed to the subject matter of canceled claims in continuation and divisional applications.

Support for claim 89 can be found at least in original claims 63 and 64. Support for claims 90 to 101 can be found at least on page 2 (last paragraph) through page 3 (last paragraph), and Example 6. Support for claims 102, 103, 105 to 108, 110 to 113, 115, and 116 can be found at least on page 50, last paragraph. Support for claims 104, 109, and 114 can be found at least in Example 6.

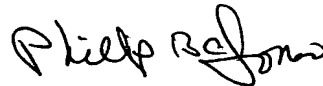
No new matter has been added by way of these amendments.

Applicants have attached a marked-up version of the changes made to the application by the present amendment. The attached pages are captioned "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made."

Conclusion

If for any reason the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of the application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (206) 442-6681.

Respectfully submitted,
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Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

In the Application:

Wenfeng Xu, Karen Madden, and David P. Yee were deleted as named inventors.

In the Specification:

The title at line 6 of page 1 has been amended as follows: ~~SOLUBLE RECEPTOR BR43X2 AND METHODS OF USING~~ METHODS FOR INHIBITING B LYMPHOCYTE PROLIFERATION WITH SOLUBLE ZTNF4 RECEPTORS

In the Claims:

Claims 1 to 88 have been canceled.

Claims 89 to 116 have been added by amendment. The new claims are:

--89. A method of inhibiting B lymphocyte proliferation in a mammal, comprising administering to the mammal a composition that comprises a soluble form of a ztnf4 receptor, wherein the soluble ztnf4 receptor binds ztnf4.

90. The method of claim 89, wherein the soluble ztnf4 receptor is a soluble form of the transmembrane activator and calcium-modulator and cyclophilin ligand-interactor (TACI) polypeptide, wherein the TACI polypeptide has an amino acid sequence consisting of SEQ ID NO:6.

91. The method of claim 90, wherein the soluble form of TACI consists of an extracellular domain of TACI.

92. The method of claim 90, wherein the soluble form of TACI comprises amino acid residues 25 to 104 of SEQ ID NO:6.

93. The method of claim 92, wherein the soluble form of TACI consists of amino acid residues 25 to 104 of SEQ ID NO:6.

94. The method of claim 92, wherein the soluble form of TACI comprises amino acid residues 1 to 154 of SEQ ID NO:6.

95. The method of claim 94, wherein the soluble form of TACI consists of amino acid residues 1 to 154 of SEQ ID NO:6.

96. The method of claim 92, wherein the soluble form of TACI comprises amino acid residues 1 to 166 of SEQ ID NO:6.

97. The method of claim 96, wherein the soluble form of TACI consists of amino acid residues 1 to 166 of SEQ ID NO:6.

98. The method of claim 89, wherein the soluble ztnf4 receptor is a soluble form of the BCMA polypeptide, wherein the BCMA polypeptide has an amino acid sequence consisting of SEQ ID NO:8.

99. The method of claim 98, wherein the soluble form of BCMA polypeptide consists of an extracellular domain of BCMA.

100. The method of claim 98, wherein the soluble form of BCMA comprises amino acid residues 1 to 48 of SEQ ID NO:8.

101. The method of claim 100, wherein the soluble form of BCMA consists of amino acid residues 1 to 48 of SEQ ID NO:8.

102. The method of claim 89, wherein the soluble form of the ztnf4 receptor comprises a fusion protein that consists of a first portion and a second portion, wherein the first portion and second portion are joined by a peptide bond, wherein the first portion of the fusion protein comprises an extracellular domain of a ztnf4 receptor, and wherein the second portion of the fusion protein is an immunoglobulin heavy chain constant region.

103. The method of claim 102, wherein the immunoglobulin heavy chain constant region is a human immunoglobulin heavy chain constant region.

104. The method of claim 103, wherein the human immunoglobulin heavy chain constant region is a human immunoglobulin heavy chain constant region of IgG1.

105. The method of claim 102, wherein the soluble form of the ztnf4 receptor comprises a multimer of fusion proteins.

106. The method of claim 105, wherein the soluble form of the ztnf4 receptor comprises a dimer of fusion proteins.

107. The method of claim 102, wherein the ztnf4 receptor is the transmembrane activator and calcium-modulator and cyclophilin ligand-interactor (TACI) polypeptide, wherein the TACI polypeptide has an amino acid sequence consisting of SEQ ID NO:6.

108. The method of claim 107, wherein the immunoglobulin heavy chain constant region is a human immunoglobulin heavy chain constant region.

109. The method of claim 108, wherein the human immunoglobulin heavy chain constant region is a human immunoglobulin heavy chain constant region of IgG1.

110. The method of claim 107, wherein the soluble form of the ztnf4 receptor comprises a multimer of fusion proteins.

111. The method of claim 110, wherein the soluble form of the ztnf4 receptor comprises a dimer of fusion proteins.

112. The method of claim 102, wherein the ztnf4 receptor is the BCMA polypeptide, wherein the BCMA polypeptide has an amino acid sequence consisting of SEQ ID NO:8.

113. The method of claim 112, wherein the immunoglobulin heavy chain constant region is a human immunoglobulin heavy chain constant region.

114. The method of claim 113, wherein the human immunoglobulin heavy chain constant region is a human immunoglobulin heavy chain constant region of IgG1.

115. The method of claim 112, wherein the soluble form of the ztnf4 receptor comprises a multimer of fusion proteins.

116. The method of claim 115, wherein the soluble form of the ztnf4 receptor comprises a dimer of fusion proteins.--